



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for February 11, 2003.

DID YOU KNOW...



Jennifer held a press conference in Washington, DC last week to announce the reintroduction of her bill to make AMBER alert available to communities nationwide. (Pictured from left to right: Rep. Martin Frost of Texas, who is co-author of the AMBER alert bill, Jennifer and Rep. Ed Royce of California)

➤ Statistics tell us that the first few hours after a child's abduction are critical to his safe return home. That is why Jennifer is working to make the AMBER alert available to communities nationwide.

➤ The AMBER alert has been credited with returning 44 children home to the arms of their parents.

➤ There are 84 state and regional AMBER plans currently in existence, including a program in King County that was launched last fall.

"Nothing could be more devastating to parents than to have their child snatched out of their lives. The AMBER alert has proven time and time again to help bring abducted children back to their families. And it should be available nationwide."

"It is a sad irony that Washington State had an occasion today to launch its first AMBER alert. I pray that young Sofie Juarez is quickly returned to her family in Kennewick."

Jennifer Dunn, February 5, 2003

What we did last week?

JENNIFER INTRODUCES BILL TO HELP MORE LOW INCOME CHILDREN RECEIVE HEALTH CARE

Last week, Jennifer introduced a bill that will allow Washington State to use \$95 million additional federal dollars to provide more low income children with health care. Her bill is entitled the “*Children First SCHIP Improvement Act*” and will allow states to keep unused federal funds for children’s health care. At issue is the 1997 State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) which provides additional dollars to states as an incentive to provide health care coverage to children who are not currently covered under Medicaid. The law however, requires that unused funds be returned to the federal government. Jennifer’s bill will allow Washington State to keep its unused funds to expand the program and cover children who might not otherwise qualify for Medicaid.

US REPS JENNIFER DUNN, MARTIN FROST, REINTRODUCE AMBER ALERT BILL; *Legislation Approved by Senate, endorsed by President and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children*

During a press event on Capitol Hill last week, Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn and Texas Congressman Martin Frost, unveiled their legislation to make the AMBER alert available to communities nationwide. HR 412, the *National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2003*, will provide state-federal matching grants to communities that choose to implement an AMBER alert program.

Also participating in the press event were Ed Smart, the father of a missing 14-year old Salt Lake City girl, Elizabeth Smart and Ernie Allen, President of the Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Both have endorsed the Dunn-Frost legislation.

THE US HOUSE PASSES RESOLUTION HONORING CREW MEMBERS OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE, COLUMBIA

Last week, the US House passed a resolution that expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives to the families of the crew members of the Columbia shuttle mission. It acknowledges the sacrifices made by the crew members on behalf of the advancement of space exploration.